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Chief, Los Angeles Field Office

4 May 1955

ATTN: ☐

Chief, Contact Division (Alien)

Case 15043 - HIASYS RASTIKIS

RFF: Your memorandum dated 31 March 1955

1. We have reviewed the Rastikis case with FI representatives in an effort to arrive at a workable solution to this perplexing problem. The full force of your arguments were exercised in the presence of FI members who regret the unfortunate developments. They expressed a belief that there may be some excusable misunderstanding concerning the type of assistance and support which Rastikis felt was forthcoming since his relocation in Los Angeles. The area of misunderstanding may be attributable to problems inherent in foreign mentalities and associated complexes which refugees encounter in attempting to accommodate themselves to American life and its standards.

2. The necessity for continued guidance in refugee reorientation is one which we should thoroughly recognize and accordingly allow concessions before successful adjustment can be contemplated.

3. We are naturally aware of all the critical information assembled in the various correspondence relating to this case and feel that no useful purpose would be served by piecemeal examination of all the problems which transpired.

4. We sincerely regret the unfortunate circumstances and would appreciate your willingness to contact subject at your earliest convenience to reestablish a new rapport in the case at hand and likewise impress on Rastikis the necessity for mutual cooperation and understanding, which of course, was not previously demonstrated by Rastikis.

5. It was ascertained that Rastikis is still under the misconception that his "salary" would continue indefinitely or until suitable employment was located. Neither we nor FI has ever made any promises, commitments or remote implication that would permit Rastikis to draw this conclusion. We naturally presume that the Los Angeles Field Office did not convey this impression to subject.

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6. Our reference to "some means of subsidization" in our memorandum of 22 September 1964, was suggested only as an emergency provision to sustain subject if he should fall prey to straitened circumstances and is not an unusual procedure in resettlement cases which require this treatment. Your assessment of this case, however, could invalidate subject's claim to "subsidization" under current provisions.

7. In our handling of Mastikis we were sometimes uncertain that he completely understood the topics discussed largely due to language barriers and his limited knowledge of English. However, we felt from his convincing affirmations or lack of rebuttal, that he was communicating properly. To dispel doubts on this point, a member of this office, briefed subject in Russian prior to his departure for Los Angeles to eliminate any possibility of error. Our involvement in this case, irrespective, of subject's beliefs never exceeded those already outlined in previous dispatches to Los Angeles.

8. It is not difficult to imagine that subject may have conveniently read different meanings into our discussions for personal gain or advantage. If, as it has been expressed, there was some margin of misunderstanding it would be beneficial for everyone concerned to permit Mastikis to enumerate specifically his understanding of the assistance and support which he expected from us and to name those individuals who may be responsible for any promises or commitments which he erroneously accepths.

9. At all events the cold facts remain substantially as follows, in view of our lengthy conference with FI members:

- a. Subject's contract expired on 1 October 1964. The November date, we are assured, was an administrative oversight. Since Mastikis signed quit claims to authenticate his understanding of the October termination date, he cannot justify further demands for government aid.
- b. FI has agreed to request a waiver of his indebtedness in the amount of \$41.67 reported in our memorandum of 3 February 1965. You may suspend all efforts to collect this debt.
- c. We have agreed to reestablish and maintain periodic contact with subject and to renew efforts to assist him in locating employment. He has been furnished a reference point to contact our field representative on all matters pertaining to his resettlement. He will

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conversely condemn to cooperate on matters which may be of interest to this Agency. Kastikis has expressed a fear that he has been abandoned; that he has been cast-off in a precipitous and arbitrary manner without permitting him the opportunity to demonstrate his appreciation for closer coordination. Your reaction to the foregoing can be anticipated but it would be useful to provide Kastikis with a chance to unburden himself of these grips.

- d. Kastikis should refer all grievances to the Los Angeles case officer and be instructed to refrain from airing his complaints through outside circles or by personal letters directed to his former sponsors in FI.
- e. Kastikis' cooperation on all the points covered above will determine the degree of assistance which may be expected from us in the future.

10. We believe that Kastikis will be psychologically conditioned to accept our supervision and counsel since his own efforts to find employment have been unproductive. Accordingly, we would recommend an early meeting with Kastikis to clarify the atmosphere on all the points indicated in this report and convince the old gent that only through mutual respect and understanding can any degree of success be anticipated in the problems dealing with his permanent resettlement and adjustment to life in the Los Angeles community.

11. Please keep us informed of all developments and be assured of our continued interest and cooperation in connection with this aggravating situation.

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